

Capital: Tashkent

Population: 25,981,647 (2003)

GDP(current US\$): 1.4 trillion (2003)

Population below national poverty line: 28% (2003)

GDP per capita (current US\$): \$350 (2003)

GDP per capita (purchasing power parity): \$1,700 (2004 est.)

Religion: Muslim 88% (mostly Sunni), Eastern Orthodox 9%, other 3%

Language: Uzbek 74%, Russian 14%, Tajik 4%, other 7%

President: Islam Karimov

Prime Minister: Shavkat Mirziyayev

Ambassador to US: Abdulaziz Komilov



National Interest: Uzbekistan is important to U.S. national security and foreign policy interests due to: its role in helping the United States in the global war on terrorism; its commercial and geographic significance to the future prosperity and stability within Central Asia; and its role as a source and transit route for narcotics and possibly nuclear and other materials. With a large and growing population, a potential for strong economic growth, and an important geo-strategic location, Uzbekistan's economic and democratic development remains central to the future prosperity and stability of the region. USAID's role is to focus on democratic and economic reform and conflict mitigation.

OVERVIEW OF USAID'S FOCUS IN UZBEKISTAN

FY05: Total FSA - \$33.5 million, USAID Total - \$24 million

Economic Reform (FY05 \$5.2 million, 22%): USAID priorities are direct assistance to small and medium enterprise (SME), support for WTO accession, and microfinance development. Uzbekistan has recently reinvigorated its efforts to gain WTO accession (Pragma). Results of microenterprise assistance include: creation of 20 savings and credit unions with total membership expected to reach 20,000 (WOCCU), start-up of microcredit activities in Tashkent and the Ferghana Valley (FINCA), strengthened capacity of four microfinance institutions (CAMFA), and improvement of the legal and regulatory framework for microfinance.

Water (FY05 \$2.5 million, 10%): The new five-year Water User Association Support Program is helping farmers manage the Soviet-era irrigation network in four target regions: Djizak, Bukhara, Samarkand, and Namangan Provinces. The new *AgFin+ Project* is working with greenhouse vegetable producers in the Ferghana Valley to increase incomes by linking targeted groups of producers to specific markets. The AgFin+ program will also stimulate businesses which are critical to the farm-to-market chain.

Democracy and Media (FY05 \$5.9 million, 25%): Due to limited political space in Uzbekistan, USAID has traditionally focused on grassroots efforts through such programs as NGO development (IREX) and civic advocacy (Counterpart), support for independent broadcast and print media (Internews, Adil Soz), legal reform, judicial ethics (ABA/CEELI), and judicial training (IRIS). USAID supports protection of human rights through a human rights legal clinic (ABA/CEELI), training and resources for human rights defenders (Freedom House), and anti-trafficking activities (IOM). USAID also addresses basic living conditions through work with condominiums (Urban Institute).

Conflict Mitigation (FY05 \$1.1 million, 5%): Through the Peaceful Communities Initiative (Mercy Corps) and the Community Action Investment Program (CHF and Mercy Corps), USAID promotes public dialogue in identifying sources of conflict and funding to address those concerns, often resulting in community-managed infrastructure projects. Target areas include: ethnically diverse communities in the Ferghana Valley; and southern Uzbekistan.

Health and Population (FY05 \$6.1 million, 25%): Since February 2003 there has been significant expansion of the health care program in Uzbekistan. USAID started work in three rayons in Ferghana Oblast. From this cautious beginning, USAID has expanded support for primary health care, maternal and child health and reproductive health, and control of infectious diseases to seven out of the country's 13 oblasts, and the Government has committed itself to replicate these reforms nationwide under a World Bank loan. USAID health resources in FY04 were mostly devoted to increasing the quality of primary health care USAID through national health education campaigns, training of primary health care staff, and small grants for local NGOs. In 2004 USAID also launched three new regional programs to expand primary health care reform, TB control, and HIV/AIDS prevention.

Basic Education (FY05 \$0.4 million, 2.0%): USAID's Participation, Education, and Knowledge Strengthening in Central Asia (PEAKS) program seeks to improve basic education at the primary and secondary school levels. Activities include training in teaching methods that stress critical thinking and active learning; development of new textbooks that incorporate interactive methodology; community mobilization on education issues; capacity building for educational administrators; and infrastructure improvements (Academy for Educational Development, AED, Save the Children US and UK, and Abt Associates).

USAID/Central Asia: Tom Delaney, Acting Regional Mission Director (7-3272-50-79 01) Park Palace Building, 41 Kazibek bi St., Almaty 480100

USAID/CAR Country Program Officer, James Bonner, (998 71 133 1852) 41 Buyuk Turon Street, Tashkent, 700000

USAID/Washington: Barbara Feinstein (202-712-5124), Central Asia Desk

USAID/CAR website: www.usaid.gov/locations/europe_eurasia/car